

Maharlika

PINOY LIFE IN THE MARIANAS

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Pacman Rules!

Soon after scoring an electrifying victory in Las Vegas, ring sensation Manny Pacquiao expressed one wish for his country: "Sana magkaintindihan na po tayong lahat."

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Singapore Fling

For Alessandra de Rossi, being a maid is easy.

Page 5



JOSIE FITIAL

Standing by **her** man

By AGNES E. DONATO
REPORTER

Josepina Padiernos Fitial, the Commonwealth's newest First Lady, has been seen by many as a political liability during most of her husband's career.

She may well be his greatest source of strength.

Having been married to newly installed Gov. Benigno R. Fitial for 22 years, Mrs. Fitial is no stranger to politics, including the perks and the heartaches that go along with it.

When Fitial lost in his first gubernatorial bid in 2001, accusing fingers immediately pointed at his wife and her Philippine origin. The islands were full enough of nonresidents, her critics said; the last thing they needed was a foreign First Lady who would bring more of her countrymen to invade this small community.

Mrs. Fitial is hurt by the personal attacks against her. But for the most part, she just takes them in stride. She has great faith in the open-mindedness of the local people, she says.

The result of the last election, which catapulted Fitial into power, reinforced this belief.

STANDING Page 2



PINOYNEWS

RP Consulate to fill up Filipiniana section of public library

By **MARCONI CALINDAS**
REPORTER

The Philippine Consulate once again shored up Joeten-Kiyu Public Library’s Filipiniana book collection after donating books and video and audio CDs to the public library earlier this month.

Consul General Wilfredo DL. Maximo said the books were obtained from the Philippine Department of Foreign Affairs last year.

The books include: *Bulawan: A Journal of*

Philippine Arts and Culture, Vestiges of War, The Filipino Workers: Global Citizens, Tubod – The Heart of Bohol, Pabalat – Pastillas Wrappers, Parol – Christmas Star Lantern, Sanghaya – Philippine Arts and Culture Yearbook 2001-2004, Treasures of Pila, Shell Ornamentation of La Purisima Concepcion Parish Church and Philippine Cultural, and Artistic Landmarks of the Past Millenium.

The audio and video CDs include the *Filipiniana Book Guild, Series 1, Legacy – Philippine World Heritage Sites, and Sa Sariling Lupa.*

Maximo said his office intends to fill up the Filipiniana Section at the public library with books about the Philippines and information about Filipino heritage.

The Filipiniana Section, the newest section at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library, was opened last October for schoolchildren and members of the CNMI community who want to learn more about the Philippines and its culture.

Public library director Kevin Latham earlier said the library acquired more than 100 books about the Philippines including the following

titles: *Philippine National Bibliography, Mga Gunita ng Himagsikan, Philippine Christmas Art and Form, Culture and Terrorism: A Round Table Discussion, and Great Churches in the Philippines* among many others. The books were acquired from the Philippine National Library and Philippine National Bookstore.

The Filipiniana Section, said Latham, would hopefully acquire a more substantial collection of books for the Filipino community. He said the library is open to more donations of books related to the new section.

UFO lends a hand in Fitial inauguration

The Filipinos community in the CNMI stood united and lent its helping hands during the inauguration ceremony of Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Gov. Timothy P. Villagomez last Jan. 9.

At least 25 Filipinos assisted in the construction of the bleachers and the stage for the inauguration, which was supposed to be held at the American Memorial Park.

However, due to heavy rains the formal oath-taking was instead moved to the Marianas High School gymnasium.

UFO president Roland Pamintuan said that, despite the sudden change of venue for the ceremony, the group still did what they could to show the new administration its support for the CNMI.

The Filipino organization mobilized immediately to assist the Department of Public Works and the Transition Committee two days before the ceremony upon receiving a letter of request coursed through the Philippine Consulate Office.

UFO officers and their families, along with other member organizations, trooped to the MHS gymnasium to witness the inauguration ceremony of the CNMI’s new leaders. **(Marconi Calindas)**

STANDING
FROM PAGE 1

“The Filipino community delivered a lot of votes for Ben and Tim. But they still wouldn’t have won without a strong local support,” says Mrs. Fitial, or Josie as family and friends fondly call her. “I believe the voters are intelligent enough to get past the fact that Ben is not married to a local In the first place, I won’t be the one running the government, but Ben. I’m just here to be helpful.”

Although she will rather stay on the sidelines, Mrs. Fitial has come to accept that she cannot hide from the public eye for as long as her husband is active in politics.

Addressing a crowd of hundreds of people—an idea she once

found dreadful—became an inevitable task during the campaign. Her ability to speak and understand Chamorro and basic Carolinian certainly helped, she says.

With her husband now holding the highest position in the Commonwealth, Mrs. Fitial is called upon to take on more responsibilities. Last week, she made numerous trips to the airport, sending off dignitaries who attended the new administration’s inauguration activities. Requests to represent her husband at social functions and ceremonial events are also becoming more frequent.

The First Lady says she will have her own platform, but foremost on her agenda will be supporting her husband’s goals. She also intends to allow the governor’s constituents decide her future projects.

In the meantime, she needs help with housekeeping.

Domestic affairs

Governor and Mrs. Fitial, as it turns out, have been living without household help in their huge Gualo Rai residence for the past year.

“I’ve been doing most of the housework for a year now,” says the First Lady. “But I will have someone to help me later this month.”

This humility of hers, among other things, is probably one of the key reasons the First Couple has been inseparable since meeting and tying the knot in 1983.

“I guess we’re really just compatible. We don’t have problems with each other,” Mrs. Fitial relates. “He was already in politics when I met him. I’ve known the kind of life he lives right from the start. So I don’t complain even if he works too much.”

She adds that, in the first place, her husband never forgets to call home even though he’s busy at work. He phones every so often just to check how she’s doing. (The governor actually phoned from Tinian, where he attended an inauguration, while this interview was ongoing Friday last week.)

She also has only nice things to say about the kind of father Fitial is to their two children: the 20-year-old Christine, a pre-medicine student at the University of San Diego in California, and the 17-year-old Patrick, a senior at Mount Carmel School.

“He’s a disciplinarian, but also very kind. He talks to them regularly. He makes time for his family,” the First Lady says.

Mrs. Fitial was born on Nov. 25, 1962 in Manila. She grew up in Nueva Ecija, an agricultural province in the northern part of the Philippines. She completed a bachelor’s degree in business administration at the University of the East-Recto in Manila.



First Couple Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and Josie Fitial walks down the aisle toward the stage for the swearing in ceremony on Jan. 9 at the Marianas High School gymnasium.



The CNMI’s first ladies, Josie Fitial, and Margaret Villagomez, stand behind their husbands, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Gov. Tim Villagomez, during a photocall at the inaugural ball held at the World Resort Hotel.



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Mga sintomas ng panghahalay na dapat tandaan

By MARCONI CALINDAS
REPORTER

Nagpalabas kamakailan lamang ang Kagawaran ng Paggawa at Pang-hanapbuhay at ang Overseas Workers Welfare Administration ng isang *Primer* para sa mga kababayang Filipino na naninilbihan sa mga tahanan sa iba’t ibang panig ng mundo.

Ayon sa munting paalala, ang *Primer* ay napapanahon upang maiwasan ang maraming hamon at matinding pagsubok na kinapapaloo-ban ng mga Filipina Domestic Helpers, maging dito sa CNMI.

Ang *Primer* na pinamagatang *Mga Payo sa Mga Domestic Helpers Upang Maiwasan ang Maging Biktima sa Panghahalay* ay kasalu-kuyang ipinamamahagi sa opisina ng OWWA sa Nauru Bldg. sa Susupe.

Mga dapat tandaan:

1. Mga kilos ng amo na nagpapahiwatig na siya ay maroon gusto o pagnanasa sa domestic helper or DH:

- a. Panakaw na sulyap o matagalang titig.
- b. Gumagawa ng pagkakataon upang makau-sap o makita palagi ang katulong.
- c. Nagkukuwento ng kahit anong paksa.
- d. Nagtatanong kung mayroon nang kasintahan ang katulong o kinumusta ang asawa ng huli.
- e. Madalas magregalo.
- f. Nanghahawak ng kamay.
- g. Sinasadyang masagi ang mga maseselang bahagi ng katawan ng babae.

2. Malaki ang posibilidad na ang panghahalay o panggagahasa ay mangayayari kung ang isa or ilan sa mga sumusunod ay ginawa ng amo:

- a. Nagkukuwento ng malalaswa.
- b. Palaging lasing o “sabog.”

- c. Inaanyayahan ang katulong na uminom ng alak o bawal na gamot.
- d. Pinapanood ang DH ng malalaswang palabas.
- e. Nagpapamasahe ng walang saplot pangloob.
- f. Pinapakita ang kanyang ari.
- g. Tinataon ng walang kapamilya o walang ibang tao kung bumabalik sa bahay.
- h. Nagpapadala ng kahit ano, mapapasok la-mang ang DH sa silid ng amo.

3. Mga kailangang gawin upang makaiwas sa panghahalay:

- a. Ipaalam sa lokal na ahensya kung nag-iisa ang among lalaki sa bahay, o kaya ay may napa-pansin hindi kanais-nais sa kanya.
- b. Huwag makipag-usap sa amo nang mataga-lan kung hindi kinakailangan.
- c. Manatiling mahinhin sa kilos at pananalita.
- d. Huwag magsuot ng shorts, mahahalay na damit at maiiksing palda. Huwag ding gumamit ng pampaganda sa mukha.
- e. Tanggapin ang regalo mula sa amo kung ito ay ibinibigay sa harap ng asawa.
- f. Pagandahin at palawigin ang pakikisama sa among babae higit pa sa lalaki.
- g. Takutin ang amo na isusumbong siya sa kan-yang asawa kung nanghihipo o nanliligaw sa kanya.
- h. Iwasang makita ang amo matapos maligo.
- i. Suriing mabuti ang mga pintuan kung pa-paano naikakandado ang mga ito mula sa loob.
- j. Kung napapansing may pagnanasa ang amo, magsuot ng sapin-sapin sa shorts at pantaloon. Gumamit ng tali sa halip na sinturon.
- k. Siguraduhing nakasusi ang pintuan ng silid, natutulog man o hindi.
- l. Buksan muna ang bintana bago ang pintuan kapag kumatok ang amo.

4. Gawin ang mga sumusunod kung pinag-tatangkaang gahasain:

- a. Higit sa lahat, pairalin ang kalmadong pag-iisip.

- b. Bolahin at lansihin ang amo.
- c. Sumigaw at magbato ng kahit ano upang makagawa ng ingay na maaring ikatakot ng amo.
- d. Ipaglaban ang puri hangga’t makakaya.

5. Mga dapat gawin kung ang pangahahalay ay nagging matagumpay:

- a. Huwag matakot kung binantaang papatayin.
- b. Huwag maniwala sa pagmamahal na inaalay ng amo.
- c. Huwag tumanggap ng salapi o alahas kapalit ng puri.
- d. Isumbong agad sa among babae ang pang-hahalay.
- e. Gawin lahat ng magagawa upang maipaabot sa embahada ang krimen.
- f. Malaking tulong sa imbestigasyon ang hindi paghugas ng ari kung makakatakas agad patun-gong embahada sa loob ng 24 oras.
- g. Ihabla sa pulis o korte ang taong nanggahasa.
- h. Maging makatotohanan at matuwid sa sa-laysay.
- i. May mga pagkakataon na nais ng nanggahasa na makipag-areglo. Makinig muna sa payo ng taga embahada, at mag-isip mabuti bago magpasya.
- j. Subaybayan ang reklamo.
- k. Magdala pauwi sa Pilipinas ng lahat ng kopya ng mga dokumento na may kinalaman sa kaso, ano man ang mangyari sa reklamo.

6. Mga dagdag paalala kung nasa labas ng bahay:

- a. Iwasang maglakad sa daan o lugar na walang tao.
- b. Huwag makipag-usap sa mga taong hindi kakilala.
- c. Huwag sasakay sa kolum ng taxi.
- d. Tandaan mabuti ang marka at numero ng sasakyang taxi.
- e. Kung sakaling may sasakyang huminto sa tabi habang naglalakad, lumayo at huwag pan-sinin kahit may tumatawag.

LABOR FRONT

Deductions on your wages

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
REPORTER

Q: Do employers have the right to make certain deductions from the employees’ wages?

A: Employers may make legal deductions to employee wages as permitted by law. For example, employers may deduct up to \$100 for housing per month. An employer may deduct other amounts according to the em-ployment contract—if it is permitted by law. Employers may also withhold a portion of earnings for mandatory tax payments.

Q: Who will shoulder the employees’ medical expenses?

A: Employers are entirely responsible for the medical care and expenses of their nonresident employees.

Q: Do alien workers have the right to have a copy of their employment con-tract?

A: Nonresident workers have the right to have a copy of their employment contract.

This section seeks to answer questions or provide advice to nonresident workers on is-sues related to labor and immigration. If you have a question, you may submit it by either leaving a message for Ferdie de la Torre at 235-6397/2440/8747 local 141 or e-mailing the question to editor@saipantribune.com, with subject header “Labor Front.”

Lost your passport? Here’s what you should do...

By MARCONI CALINDAS
REPORTER

If you are one of the many Filipinos who have misplaced their passports and lost them permanently, the Philippine Consulate Office is advising you to apply for an immediate replacement. Below are the guidelines under the Consulate’s Passport Re-quirement for application for lost passports.

- A personal appearance and interview at the Consul Office at the 5th Floor of Nauru Bldg. in Susupe
- Duly accomplished passport application form signed by the applicant. In case of minors below eight years old, the application must be signed by the parent or legal guardian
- Duly notarized Affidavit of Loss
- A Police report
- Three colored passport size photos with plain light back-ground showing clear front view of applicant’s face without eyeglasses, in proper attire, and without unnatural piercing. The photos must be taken within the last six months before the date of application
- Original or Certified True Copy of Birth duly authenticated by the National Census and Statistics Office and one photocopy of the document
- In the absence of a Birth Certificate, other documents may be required by the Consular Officer pursuant to RA 8239 and DO 11-97 such as Baptismal Certificate, Seaman’s Book and one photocopy each of the additional documents required by the Consular Office.

For the lost passport, there is a processing fee of \$90 per ap-plication fee. Application forms are available at the Consular Office. For more information, contact the Philippine Consulate Office at 234-1848.

'Rehistrado ka na ba?'

"Are you registered?" the Philippine Consulate Office is asking this question to Filipinos living in the CNMI in the run-up to the 2007 general election in the Philippines.

Consul General Wilfredo DL. Maximo said the registration period in his office started in October 2005 and would end on Aug. 31, 2006.

"Avoid the last-minute rush and register as soon as possible," said Maximo.

He said those who could register are Filipino citizens who would be out of the Philippines on Election Day in May 2007. He or she must at least be 18 years old on the day of the election.

Those who have reacquired or retained their Philippine citizenship under Republic Act 9225, otherwise known as the "Citizenship Retention and Reacquisition Act of 2003," could also register.

Filipinos who filed an Affidavit of Intent to Return after applying for registration as overseas absentee voter are also eligible to register.

An immigrant or a permanent resident who is recognized as such in the host country and executes upon filing of an application for registration as overseas absentee voter an Affidavit of Intent to Return are also eligible.

Filipinos are requested to personally appear at the 5th Floor, Philippine Consulate Office in Nauru Bldg., Susupe.

"Seafarers may file their applications personally indicating in his application from the specific address where he wants his ballot to be sent."

Documents required for the registration are as follows: Valid Philippine Passport, if seaman a photocopy of Seaman's Book or any other document proving that registrants are seafarers and a certified true copy of the signed Oath of Allegiance if Philippine Citizenship is reacquired or retained under R.A. 9225. (*Marconi Calindas*)

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. Who may register as overseas absentee voters?

a. All citizens of the Philippines abroad who are least eighteen years of age on May 14, 2007 and who are not otherwise disqualified by law.

b. Those who have reacquired or retained their Philippine citizenship under R.A. 9225 and other Filipino citizens with dual citizenship.

c. Immigrants or permanent residents of other countries who are recognized as such in their host countries.

Dual citizens and immigrants must sign the Affidavit of Intent to Return upon filing an application for registration or certification as an overseas absentee voter.

2. What is the difference between an Application for Registration and an Application for Certification as an overseas absentee voter?

You file an Application for Registration as an overseas absentee voter if you are not yet a registered voter in the Philippines, file an Application for Certification as an overseas absentee voter

3. What information do I need to furnish in OAVF No.1?

OAUF No.1 has four parts:

Part I: contains your Personal Circumstances. In addition, the name of your authorized representative in the Philippines must also be indicated, should you choose to appoint one?

Part II: The Oath that you must take

Part III: You must sign this if you are either a dual citizen or an immigrant or permanent resident as your registration/certification is subject to Section 5(d) of Republic Act 9189.

Part IV: This portion shall be filled by the RERB based in the COMELEC Central Office.

4. Do I need to file an application to vote in

absentia to be able to vote?

No, because the application to vote in absentia is already incorporated in the application form.

5. Where can I get OAVF No. 1 and other OAV registration forms?

From the Philippine Embassies and Consulates. They may also be downloaded from the websites of the COMELEC at www.comelec.gov.ph and the Department of Foreign Affairs at www.dfa.gov.ph.

6. When can I file my application for registration/certification as an overseas absentee voter?

You may file your application for registration/certification as an overseas absentee voter from Oct.1, 2005 to Aug. 31, 2006. Please inquire from the Embassy, Consulate, or Mission having consular jurisdiction over the place where you reside as to the exact scheduled registration days applicable to you.

7. Where can I file the application for registration/certification as an overseas absentee voter?

Before the authorized representatives of the COMELEC at the Philippine Embassies and Consulates, foreign service establishments and other Philippine government agencies abroad having consular jurisdiction where you temporarily reside or in specifically designated field or mobile registration areas outside the Posts.

8. What is the procedure for filing of an application for registration/certification as an overseas absentee voter?

You have to:

a. Personally appear at the Post that has consular jurisdiction over the locality where you temporarily reside:

- b. Accomplish OAVF No. 1
- c. Submit the supporting documents
- d. Submit to a biometrics capture

9. What does it mean to submit to a biometrics capture?

Biometrics capture means that your photograph, signature, and right thumb mark will be electronically recorded using special digital equipment.

10. If I download the OAVF No. 1 from the website of the COMELEC of the DFA, how should I proceed with the application for registration/certification as an overseas absentee voter?

You have to:

- a. Accomplish OAVF No. 1
- b. Personally appear at the Post that has consular jurisdiction over the locality where you temporarily reside
- c. Submit the accomplished OAVF No.1 together with your supporting documents
- d. Submit to biometrics capture

11. May I submit my accomplished OAVF No. 1 and submit myself for live capture of my biometrics on different days?

No, you may not. The accomplished OAVF No. 1 must be turned in on the same day that you intend to have your biometrics taken because even if you have submitted in your OAVF No. 1 but have not had your biometrics taken, your application will still be deemed not filed.

12. I am seafarer. How should I proceed with my application for registration/certification as an overseas absentee voter?

- a. Personally appear at any post
- b. Accomplish OAVF No. 1 indicating the specific address where you want your ballot to be sent
- c. Submit the accomplished OAVF No. 1 together with your supporting documents
- d. Submit to biometrics capture

13. What documents will I present to the representative of the COMELEC in the Em-

bassy or the Consulate?

a. A valid Philippine passport. In the absence of a passport, a Certification from the Department of Foreign Affairs asserting either that you have submitted documents that will warrant the issuance of a passport, or that the applicant is a valid passport holder but is unable to produce it for a valid reason.

b. An accomplished OAVF No. 1 as prescribed by the COMELEC

c. If you are a seafarer, a photocopy of your Seaman's Book for any other document that will prove that you are a seafarer should also be submitted in addition to "a" and "b" above

d. If you have availed of RA 9225, you should also provide a certified true copy of the signed Oath of Allegiance submitted to the Embassy/Consulate in addition to "a" and "b" above.

The COMELEC may require additional data to establish your identity.

14. How will I know if my application has been approved?

You may regularly check the website of the COMELEC if your application has been approved. You may also check with your Embassy or Consulate

15. How will I know if my application has been disapproved?

You will receive a Notice of Disapproval of your application from the Committee on Overseas Absentee Voting in Manila.

16. What should I do if my application for registration/certification has been disapproved?

Within five days from receipt of the Notice of Disapproval of your application, you or your authorized representative may file a Motion for Reconsideration before the Resident Election Registration Board of the COMELEC.

17. What is the Resident Election Registration Board?

It is the Board based in the Central Office in Manila, which shall hear and act on all applications for registration/certification as overseas absentee voter.

18. What if the RERB denies my Motion for Reconsideration of the disapproval of my application for registration/certification?

You may file a Petition for Inclusion with the Municipal or Metropolitan Trial Court in Manila within 10 days from receipt of the notice of denial.

19. What should I do if my name has been omitted, misspelled, or erroneously written in the National Registry of Absentee Voters?

You may personally, or through your authorized representative, file with the COA an application for reinstatement or correction of your name not later than Dec. 15, 2006.

20. I registered as an overseas absentee voter in 2003 and I was able to vote in the 2004 National Elections. Do I still need to apply for certification to vote abroad?

No, because your name is already listed in the Certified List of Overseas Absentee Voters and the National Registry of Overseas Absentee Voters.

21. I registered as an overseas absentee voter in 2003 and I was not able to vote in 2004 National Elections, do I need to register again to vote abroad?

No, because your name is still in the CLOAV. But if you fail to vote in the 2007 elections abroad, your name will be deleted from the CLOAV of your Embassy or Consulate.

22. I registered as an overseas absentee voter in 2003, but I know I will be in another country come May 14, 2007. Can I vote in the 2007 elections?

Yes. You have to file a Letter-Request for Transfer of Registration Record, OAVF No. 1B, before your Embassy or Consulate.



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SANCTUARIO PAX

One nation in jubilation after Pacquiai TKOs Mexican legend

By **CHRISTINE O. AVENDAÑO**
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Soon after scoring an electrifying victory in Las Vegas, ring sensation Manny Pacquiao expressed one wish for his country: “Sana magkaintindihan na po tayong lahat (I hope we’ll all finally end our differences).” And for three or four hours yesterday, Filipinos looked like they did.

In Metro Manila and elsewhere in the country, families stayed glued in front of their television sets, many motorists and jeepney drivers stayed off the streets, traders closed their shops and others set up TV monitors in markets to watch their idol hammer Erik Morales to submission.

In one hospital in Quezon City, doctors and nurses burst into cheers, although a patient was undergoing surgery in a nearby operating room.

Communist guerrillas and Moro separatist insurgents also listened to or watched the fight.

Even if only fleetingly, a people deeply divided over their President had united behind a former bakery worker.

Pacquiao expressed his wish for his country on national and cable television when interviewed in his dressing room after the fight.

The boxer was surrounded by Filipino officials, led by First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo.

Pacquiao profusely thanked the nation for supporting him with its prayers. He admitted he felt like crying over the huge support his compatriots gave him.

“I hope you would continue to support me and, especially to President Macapagal-Arroyo, thank you, thank you very much and to you all, thank you very much,” Pacquiao said. “God bless you all.”

Pacquiao also spoke by phone to Ms Arroyo,

who watched the bout from Malacañang.

“I join Filipinos from every corner of the Philippines and the world in congratulating Manny Pacquiao on his very convincing victory,” Ms Arroyo said in a statement.

An inspiration

She said Pacquiao’s win should serve “as an inspiration and constant reminder to all our countrymen that the Filipino can be the best in any endeavor when he puts his heart into it.”

While the fight was going in Las Vegas on Saturday night (Sunday morning in the Philippines), there were only a few shoppers in the big malls in Metro Manila, despite it being a Sunday.

Many of the usual mall customers apparently stayed home or had gone elsewhere to watch the bout.

Shoppers began to come in at about 3pm, when the fight was over.

Cheering every punch

Only light traffic flowed along stretches of EDSA (Epifanio delos Santos Avenue).

In Pampanga province, many jeepney and tricycle drivers in San Fernando City stopped plying their routes and watched the fight on television at their terminals.

Every Pacquiao punch that found Morales’ chin or stomach set up roars of cheering.

“The victory of Manny is a moral booster to all of us Filipinos, especially during these times,” said driver Nestor Ocampo.

In Baguio City, traffic was at its lightest in years because most residents stayed home to watch the fight, according to the police.

Hundreds of people converged on Malcolm Square downtown to watch a delayed telecast

of the match on a widescreen set up by the ABS-CBN network.

Pretext for reunions

In Barangay Dominican, families used the match as an excuse to hold reunions. Jeepney and taxi drivers also took a breather to watch the match before plying their routes.

But cab driver Marvin Tangganen kept on working.

“I decided to earn a living because the radio already broadcast the fight, and I already knew who won,” Tangganen said.

While in Las Vegas watching the fight, Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis “Chavit” Singson acted as the “blow-by-blow commentator” of a radio station in Vigan City.

Singson interrupted a religious program of the dwRS Commando Radio to deliver his fight commentary.

In Sorsogon City, hundreds of passengers going to different towns were stranded for hours after jeepney drivers grounded their vehicles to watch the bout.

Deserted streets

The streets were deserted, a scene experienced only during Good Friday. Tricycle drivers also stopped plying their routes.

Restaurants with TV sets were packed with jubilant customers.

But Grace Pascual, administrative officer of SN-dzRS, refused to watch the fight, saying she wouldn’t be able to bear it if Pacquiao lost.

From their hideouts somewhere south of Luzon, the Communist Party of the Philippines and the New People’s Army joined the nation in celebrating the victory of Pacquiao and that of another Filipino, Jimrex Jaca, in an undercard.

Victory for the people

“We salute them for their victory. Their win is also the victory of the people,” communist spokesperson Gregorio “Ka Roger” Rosal said in a text message. He said he followed the fight on radio.

When asked if the rebels momentarily stopped their operations against government forces so they could monitor the bout, Rosal said: “The NPA operations against the enemies continued even while some of the Red fighters were monitoring the fight.”

“I join Filipinos from every corner of the Philippines and the world in congratulating Manny Pacquiao on his very convincing victory.”
—MS ARROYO

In Cotabato City, the Moro Islamic liberation Front congratulated Pacquiao on his feat.

“We expected that he would win the bout. We join the Filipino people not only in the country but those overseas as well in celebrating his victory,” MILF spokesperson Eid Kabalu said on the phone.

“We support him. We are happy that even in sports, our group feels the spirit of unity,” Kabalu added.

He said the front provided its forces in the field with TV sets so they could watch the fight.

Politicians were also ebullient.

Sen. Richard Gordon said the fight was spectacular and noted how Pacquiao was “focused” throughout.

“That’s one thing we Filipinos lack. He also showed the Pinoy is world-class,” Gordon said.

Sen. Edgardo Angara said of Pacquiao: “He’s a national treasure. Let’s take care of him and let’s not push him to exhaust himself.”

Sen. Francis Pangilinan called Pacquiao “truly the Filipino people’s champion.”

With reports from Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk; Leoncio Balbin Jr., Frank Cimat and Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau; Delfin T. Mallari Jr. and Bobby Labalan, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau; Michael Lim Ubac, Luige del Puerto and TJ Burgonio in Manila, and PDI Mindanao Bureau, and Agence France-Presse

ELITE CARGO
CMYK

Cheers erupt in mall, plaza

By **TARRA V. QUISMUNDO,**
MARGAUX C. ORTIZ,
LUIGIE A. DEL PUERTO
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

The rich and not-so-rich Filipinos were one in cheering for Manny Pacquiao as he slugged it out with Erik Morales. It didn't matter whether some had paid to watch a live broadcast of the fight in a mall or others saw it hours later on free TV projected on a giant screen in a plaza.

With every solid hit and knockdown, thousands of boxing fans who shelled out P300 jumped to their feet and erupted in cheers in the jam-packed theaters of SM Megamall in Mandaluyong City.

At Plaza Miranda in Manila, men with backpacks, fathers carrying their children, and couples holding hands cheered every time Pacquiao threw jabs and powerful punches at the Mexican boxer.

In an operating room at the East Avenue Medical Center in Quezon City, nurses, doctors and aides rejoiced when a hook caught Morales in the 10th round, sending him to the canvas.

"We cheered every round, and we'd tease persons in the other room, where an operation was going on and they therefore couldn't watch the fight, that Manny Pacquiao had fallen," said Pearl Morito, a nurse.

Appendectomy

It was perfect that there was just

one emergency operation going on throughout the bout. A 16-year-old girl was undergoing an appendectomy.

"Every break, we'd go to the hallway and just kind of cheer. Pacman's really great!" Morito said. "Everybody was in a jolly mood."

One of the staffers' relatives even called from the United States to announce that Morales had been knocked down. She could not wait, so everyone knew the result by Round 2.

"It's over for Morales," said Jaime Base, 66, at SM Megamall. Base fought in small-town boxing events in his native Camarines Norte province in his youth.

Mark Uy, 16, said: "It's worth it! The fight was great!"

Beamed by satellite from Las Vegas through Solar Sports, the Pacquiao-Morales rematch was a box-office hit at the mall, which opened early and devoted nine cinemas for the screening.

Sold out

Tickets were sold out two days before the fight, said theater managers, but overwhelming demand prompted ticket booths to sell more for throngs of patrons who patiently lined up although no more seats were available.

Theater officers said they could not reveal actual ticket sales. But based on theater capacities that varied from 600 to 1,100, the viewers, including a sizeable number who stood throughout the broad-



cast, might have well exceeded 5,000.

"We were here at 6 a.m., and we ran to get in line. My children advised me to just watch here because they knew I was impatient," said Base, who came to the mall with his son-in-law.

4 hours of screening

Running roughly an hour ahead of the regular TV broadcast, the mall screening lasted almost four hours as it featured supporting bouts starting at around 8:30 a.m.

But when a fierce-looking Pacquiao was shown on the big screen emerging from his dressing room at 12:30 p.m., the crowd began an almost chaotic cheer.

Every time the 27-year-old boxing hero landed a brutal punch on the taller Mexican, the male-dominated crowd roared. For them, Pacquiao's punches were like bombs dropped from a fighter jet.

On the edge of their seats, the viewers anticipated Morales' counter punches, and kept silent each time he connected.

But the mood turned festive when Pacquiao unleashed a flurry of his own, battering his rival who seemingly weakened at every sound of the bell.

"End it now!" a man yelled halfway through the match.

Ecstasy, boos

As soon as Pacquiao did, in 2 minutes 33 seconds into the 10th round, the viewers—yuppies, seniors and teens—were on their feet ecstatic, raising fists and swapping congratulations.

Many pulled out mobile phones to spread the news to friends and family members watching the delayed broadcast at their homes.

The cheers turned to boos when Pacquiao was shown on screen embracing Ilocos Sur Governor Luis "Chavit" Singson, who climbed up the ring with First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo to congratulate the boxer moments after the fight.

"Pacquiao was in excellent form,"

Fermin Aragon, 52, said at Plaza Miranda. "He really makes you proud to be a Filipino."

Lani Laroa, 24, said staying under the sun to watch the match was worth it.

Laroa and a friend went straight to the plaza after hearing Mass at the nearby Quiapo Church.

Dancing

"We wouldn't have seen Pacquiao's victory had we gone home after the Mass," she said, her eyes still glued to the giant screen on the Mercury Drug building's facade.

Many men who watched the fight were overjoyed after Pacquiao brought Morales to his knees in Round 10.

"I knew he would win, I knew he would win," a cigarette vendor shouted in Filipino, dancing around his friends.

Jeepneys clogged the westbound lane of Quezon Boulevard as drivers slowed down to glance at the giant screen shortly after Pacquiao won.




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PINOYSTYLE

How to be a maid

By NINI VALERA
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER.

For Alessandra de Rossi, being a maid is easy. “There’s nothing to it,” said the 22-year-old actress. “What’s there to learn about being a maid? You sweep, iron clothes, cook food. That’s it.” Which is why, instead of researching for her role in director Kelvin Tong’s “The Maid” by talking to the Filipino maids in Singapore, where the film was shot, De Rossi went malling. “One thing I know, maids in Singapore work hard and sacrifice a lot,” said De Rossi. She did not know, however, that most of those Filipino maids have college degrees and left their own children to care for other people’s kids. “The Maid” is De Rossi’s first outing in a foreign-made movie, which was partly financed by filmmaker Tikoy Aguiluz along with MediaCorp Raintree Pictures. It cost \$1.5 million to produce.

Ghost fiesta

De Rossi’s character, Rosa Dimaano, arrives in the Teo household in Singapore on the first day of the seventh month of the Chinese calendar, known as the Hungry Ghost Festival. For 30 days, ghosts supposedly roam the earth and play tricks on mortals. So they won’t be outwitted by the visiting dead, the living have to follow certain rules of behavior. For instance, they should not eat certain foods, go swimming, sweep burning ashes or talk to strangers in dark alleys. Rosa breaks some of the rules unknowingly and her life turns into a nightmare.



For Alessandra de Rossi, being a maid is easy. Which is why, instead of researching for her role in director Kelvin Tong’s “The Maid,” de Rossi went malling.

The movie ran in Singapore last August for three weeks and was a hit, De Rossi said. “I hope it will also be a hit here,” she added. It opens Jan. 25 in local theaters. Manny Valera, De Rossi’s manager, said the actress earned more than double her local rate for doing the role. Not bad for a maid.

Lucy Torres is TV’s newest dance diva

By JOCELYN VALLE
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Though she belongs to a well-to-do family from the South, Lucy Torres didn’t grow up getting everything she wanted. Lucy, with husband Richard Gomez, is trying to instill the same discipline with daughter Julianna. When they shop at Toy Kingdom, for instance, they allow the tyke to get only one item of her choice.

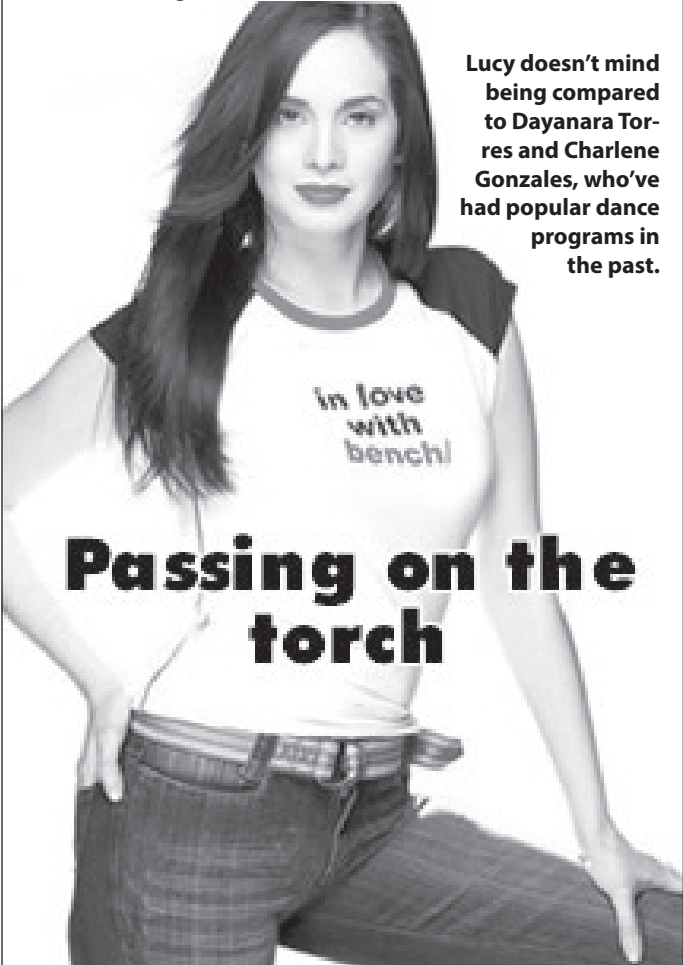
Present

Curiously, the couple doesn’t practice the traditional gift-swapping. “There was a time when we didn’t even get each other anything,” she shares. “But, when we see something that the other likes, we get it as a present.” Lucy and Richard would rather spread the holiday cheer to their godchildren, relatives, friends and co-workers. “Our shopping list is for hundreds of people,” she offers. “But, we’re not into giving generic gifts—binabagay ko talaga sa tao. I enjoy wrapping gifts.” Last December, though, Lucy admits that she was a bit late with her gift-giving chores because she was busy with her Sunday show, “Shall We Dance: The Celebrity Dance Challenge,” on Channel 5.

Thankfully, her hard work has paid off. “I’ve been told that our show is the top-rating show of the network,” she beams. “Of course, there’s always room for improvement. We work doubly hard to deliver a good show,” she points out. We saw this during a recent visit to the set. Lucy’s opening number took several takes to finish, though the host and her back-up dancers hardly made mistakes.

Admiration

Lucy doesn’t mind being compared to Dayanara Torres and Charlene Gonzales, who’ve had popular dance programs in the past. “It’s part of the job,” says TV’s newest dance diva. She has only respect and admiration for Yari and Charlene. “I have a lot to learn, especially when it comes to ballroom dancing. But, I’m having fun!”



Lucy doesn’t mind being compared to Dayanara Torres and Charlene Gonzales, who’ve had popular dance programs in the past.

Passing on the torch

RP hosts ‘historic’ jazz & arts festival

By **TINA ARCEO-DUMLAO**
INQUIRER

Editor's Note: Published on page A2-1 of the January 23, 2006 issue of the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

Filipinos are among the world's best jazz exponents, says renowned jazz artist Kevyn Lettau, and it's about time more Filipinos knew about it.

Lettau told the Inquirer that it was with this in mind that she had jumped at the chance to participate in the first Philippine International Jazz and Arts Festival spearheaded by the Philippine Jazz Society (PJS).

"Jazz artists here are not appreciated enough," Lettau said, "[I'd like] to help raise awareness among Filipinos that there are really good artists here."

Lettau said jazz as a music form has not been as appreciated as it should be, either, not only in the Philippines, but elsewhere in the world, because of lack of exposure to the music, plus a generation gap between those who grew up listening to the likes of Sarah Vaughn and Billie Holiday and those weaned on rap music.

Another reason, she said, is the proliferation of pop music that she described as "overwhelmingly loud." She explained: "Nowadays, popular music hits you over the head, it does not allow you to be involved. This means the younger generation is not used to really listening."

Lettau is confident that jazz and similar forms of music will soon enjoy a resurgence. She said the festival is one such opportunity for more people, especially Filipinos, to be exposed to the unique musical art form that is jazz and then maybe champion it.

"[Filipino] culture is an advantage because [of the many] influences, [including] Latin and black," Lettau said. "[That's why] you have a lot of soul."

Showcase of cultures

The desire to showcase that soul prompted the PJS, headed by singer Sandra Lim-Viray, and the Department of Tourism to put the festival together.

Kicking off the four-day event was the World Jazz Fiesta street party at The Podium held Friday night, featuring local bands The Brass Munkeys, Pinikpikan, Guarana, Hairy Dawgs, Nyko Maca and Electrosamba and Sirocco of Australia.

It is Sirocco's first time in the Philippines. The group has been singing for some 25 years now. Its mission: to expose the world to Australian aboriginal music and learn from other cultures.

"Sirocco means desert wind. It knows no boundaries-like music," explains musician Paul Jarman.

David Hudson, who plays the didgeridoo, a traditional aboriginal instrument, added that the group was excited to participate in the festival.

"We call ourselves edutainers," he explained. "We educate and entertain. We believe [we should all] learn from each other because we are part of just one race, the human race."

Sirocco also took part in the official opening ceremonies on Saturday night at the Harbour Square, CCP complex.

Hosted by local jazz great Mon David, the rites also featured performances by UP College of Music Dean Ramon Acoymo, Bob Aves, Grace Nono and traditional groups from Maguindanao and the Cordilleras, Sinika and Kaisahan ng Lahi Dance Ensemble from Puerto Princesa, Palawan, and the Indonesian Dance Troupe.

This was followed by grand performances of the UP Jazz Ensemble, Johnny Alegre Affinity, Lester Demetillo, Makopa, Jong Cuenco, Isha with Look, the Ria Villena Group, Brownbeat, Paolo and Power Train, Aquarela, Makopa and the H30 Jazz Visitors.

Deodato with Lettau

The night was capped by a concert featuring the Kevyn Lettau Quartet and Brazilian composer and musician Eu-mir Deodato.

Last night, one of the featured artists was homegrown talent Charmaine Clamor, who has released a solo album

in the United States, "Searching for the Soul," under Free-Ham records.

The album represents the fulfillment of the American dream for Clamor, who left the Philippines for the US in 1988 to pursue a singing career.

Clamor said she had her share of bad gigs and paid more than her due before she finally got that album into the market.

To come home and participate in the jazz festival, she said, was another dream come true.

"This is such a historic event and it's amazing to be part of it," Clamor said. "Hopefully, we can have something like this every year."

Kevyn Lettau said jazz as a music form has not been as appreciated as it should be, either, not only in the Philippines, but elsewhere in the world, because of lack of exposure to the music.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD:

Lights, motor, off-cam action!



George Clooney poses with the award he won for best supporting actor for his work in "Syriana," at the 63rd Annual Golden Globe Awards in this Monday, Jan. 16, 2006 file photo, in Beverly Hills, Calif.

By RUBEN V. NEPALES
INQUIRER

Editor's Note: Published on page A3-1 of the January 22, 2006 issue of the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

Even as the photographers on the red carpet were yelling "Ziyi, over here! Over here!" Ziyi Zhang, resplendent in an Armani gown on the red carpet, turned to me and asked, "Did you get my note?" What a sweet girl. Amid the frenzy, she wanted to make sure I had received her New Year greeting.

My daughter Nikki texted me, teasing, "Stop hogging the red carpet scene." She was watching the arrivals coverage on the E! channel and has seen enough of her daddy walking up and down the red carpet, trying to help keep the A-list traffic moving.

Couturier turned E! fashion commentator Isaac Mizrahi added to the craziness by fondling Scarlett Johansson's left breast! He asked Teri Hatcher, Felicity Huffman and Sandra Oh what undies they were wearing-if any. Teri fled.

As in last year- since we were covering the arrivals as other guests were already chewing their fillet mignon inside the ballroom-when we came in a few minutes before the show, we wolfed down the appetizers and had to beg for our entrees. After eating the steak and fish fillet, we had dessert during the show.

Since we were writing a front page coverage story, the huge Moët & Chandon champagne bottle sitting temptingly on the ice bucket taunted us throughout the show but we took only a sip.

And while my wife Janet was seen on television by some friends and relatives (even a friend from the Philippines), especially when Steve Carell won for Best Actor in a TV comedy series, a pal of mine from Manila said she saw me, too, but said I was "looking down, probably fiddling with your Blackberry." Yes, I was hunched down but I was not busy texting; I was writing notes for my story and for this column!

Champagne not enough

The action during the commercial breaks was as interesting as the show proper. The stars stood up to schmooze or go to the restrooms or the open bar (Jamie Foxx, in diamond-studded shades, tipped a bartender \$200). Some folks who lost ran to the bar at the next commercial break. I guess the champagne was not enough.

Don Johnson, passing by Charlie Sheen's table, winked at the latter and gave him a bear hug. This was after Charlie lost to Steve. Don's ex, Melanie Griffith, wore a sleeveless gown, exposing a tattoo on her right arm that depicted a heart, with "Antonio" scrawled inside. That's Antonio Banderas, of course.

Will Ferrell, on the other hand, walked over to his fellow "Saturday Night Live" alum, Steve Carell, and gave him a congratulatory hug. Emma

Thompson went up to Ziyi and bussed her after the latter lost in the Best Actress, Drama (Film) category.

Reese Witherspoon was one of this industry crowd's favorites. Many shouted "Reese! Reese!" before the winner in the Best Actress in a musical or comedy film was announced (and she did win).

Teri went up to Mary-Louise Parker and hugged her-the latter defeated Teri and her fellow "Desperate Housewives" in the Best Actress in a TV Comedy Series race.

Jason Lee, whose table was right in front of us, was about to stand up (presumably to schmooze, too) during a commercial break, but was prevailed upon to stay because his show's ("My Name is Earl") category, Best TV Comedy Series, was up next.

Adrien Brody, holding two beer bottles, paused on his way back to his table to talk to someone on his cell phone. Love birds Matthew McConaughey and Penelope Cruz held hands as they walked away from their table.

Other attractive couples: Kate Beckinsale and Len Wiseman, star and director, respectively, of "Underworld Evolution"; and Zach Braff and Mandy Moore.

A winner inadvertently pronounced Focus (name of an indie company) as "F- - k us" and caused the ballroom crowd to giggle.

Ang Lee, after getting over the thrill of receiving the Best Director trophy from "The Man" no less, Clint Eastwood, gave one of the night's many wonderful acceptance speeches. He thanked his fellow filmmakers for using "the power of filmmakers to change the way we're thinking."

John Travolta and Leonardo DiCaprio evoked old Hollywood glamour-other actors should be just as well-groomed and dressed.

What a push!

Teri, Marcia Cross and Eva Longoria let out a joyous scream when their fellow "desperada," Felicity Huffman, won Best Actress in Film, Drama plum.

When I saw Ryan Philippe push his wife Reese after she won Best Actress in a Musical or Comedy, I thought he must have been really happy-it was quite an exuberant push. "My husband pushed me so hard, I almost fell over," Reese was quoted later in the backstage press room. She quipped, "(He pushed me) like a linebacker."

Ryan, who was very good in "Crash" (but only Matt Dillon got nominated), won, too-he had bet that Reese's "Walk the Line" co-star, Joaquin Phoenix, would win (the latter wagered he was going to lose). So Joaquin paid Ryan right after his acceptance speech.

As we walked toward the exits after the show, we overheard "Rent" star Jesse Martin asking S. Epatha Merkerson, Best Actress in a TV Movie or Miniseries, "So which party are we going to hit first?" She quickly replied, "The HBO party!" Of course-the cable channel co-produced the show that made her win, "Lackawanna Blues."

Tessa! Memoirs of a geisha wannabe

By TESSA PRIETO-VALDES
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

My very first trip abroad was to Japan when I was about 6 or 7. Horsing around in front of a Godzilla-sized Buddha, my brother Louie had told me that if I bowed to the stone statue 50 times, I would get my wish. Seeing all the other Japanese visitors bowing, I started bowing like mad so I could go to the toy store and buy one of the pretty, kimono-clad dolls.

All these years, I have kept my fascination for beautifully embroidered kimonos. I once bought a generic version from a Japanese, SM-style department store. The elaborate needlework of kimonos and woven obis vary among the different regions of Japan.

At the newly reopened Inagiku at the Makati Shang, a stunning, fully embroidered kimono is displayed at the entrance, a bright orange welcome into the arresting interiors of the hotel's Japanese restaurant. Chef Kimito Katogiri prepared a totally new menu incorporating few of the old favorites. In addition to the main menu, Inagiku has a new sushi chef who prepared a sampler of sushi and sashimi moriawase.

Arriving really late at the opening, I paraded my modern-day kimono, an outfit inspired by creative designer Peter Lim, past an acrylic-covered fishpond at the entrance and glass water fountains where guests had a tea ceremony earlier that evening. I

missed all that but I was able to tour the restaurant with GM Jarlath Lynch, who proudly showed the different private rooms looking into a garden with striking, metal circular sculptures by Anne Pamintuan.

The rich wood and metal textures throughout the restaurant are softened by the kimonos and stylized uniforms by design maverick Rajo Laurel. He has elevated waiters' uniforms from the boring, bow-tied standards to the Shang levels where every last detail, like hair ornaments, is included in the mix.

Japanese cooking

Simpler than Inagiku, another Japanese restaurant I recommend is Seryna (Tel. 8943855) at the Little Tokyo area across Makati Cinema Square. Owned by Eisaku Maru and his Filipina wife Eva, the couple is there every night personally attending to guests and Japanese patrons. It's always a good sign when one sees Japanese guests happily eating.

The wood, metal and stone geometric interiors were done by architect George Yulo. While enjoying the food, my eyes were so busy scoping the interiors that felt like an authentic, modern place in Shinjuku. Their grilled Wagyu beef is excellent—another reason for me to stay carnivorous.

It's amazing how many Japanese restaurant choices there are in our city. From simple ramen houses to Teppanyaki grills to sushi bars to neo-Japanese fusion menus, the options might outnumber Filipino restaurants. One sushi bar at the Fort called Sakae Sushi even has motored boats transporting sushi while you make choices in the monitor in front of you. When I was growing up, Kimpura Restaurant seemed to be the only choice!

Chef to the rescue

My kids have acquired a taste for tempura and soba noodles so I told them that we would try different places. But dining out can be expensive and takes

us away from little Athena, so I have instructed my cook to add Japanese dishes to our meals. Clearly, I just delegate the cooking as I don't cook myself, even though a feng shui expert once told me that I would be an excellent cook if I did!

Inquirer food columnist Reggie Aspiras is coming to my rescue. This stylish chef is conducting a series of cooking classes called the Gourmet Cucinera for cooks. Classes are taught in Tagalog and dishes are simple and economical for daily use. And the best part is that the classes are at the Shang Mall so I can have a treatment at Urban Spa while my Cucinera studies. The Reggie Aspiras School of Culinary Arts is at 3/F, Bon Appetit beside Rustan's.

For her next series, Reggie will have diet and light recipes together with basics of table service and setting. Called the Healthy Series, courses on heart and diabetic cuisine will be offered. I might as well eat right since I am so desperately trying to get back into shape.

OPINYON

Lying

Local media carried an interesting item late last week. A Gallup Poll International survey called "The Voice of the People" said most people in the world think politicians are dishonest, have too much power and are easily swayed. The survey interviewed 50,000 people in 60 countries. The respondents had a better regard for business leaders, but only in relation to politicians—61 percent said politicians were dishonest; only 43 percent said so of business leaders.

In fact, there is nothing new in that survey, which merely reiterates the findings of previous surveys on the same subject. In Britain last year, a couple of weeks before the voters trekked to the polls, a survey by Ginsters showed an all-time distrust of politicians by the public. "Politicians," some of the respondents said—with an almost Filipino weakness for puns—should instead be called "po-lie-ticians." Tony Blair got the dubious honor of being awarded the second biggest liar in history, next only to Jeffrey Archer.

He was a worse liar in British eyes than even Richard Nixon and Bill Clinton. The reason for it, of course, was the "dodgy dossier" he regaled the public with to draw Britain into George W. Bush's war.

In November last year, Ipsos-Reid discovered from a survey of randomly selected adult Canadians that nine out of 10 Canadians believed politicians were "likely to lie" when they made statements to the media about important issues. Quite interestingly, also high in the Liars Index were journalists and priests/ministers. Lowest were police officers, doctors and teachers. That might very well be the same results for this country, except for the part about police officers. They will probably come second in our Liars Index, next to politicians.

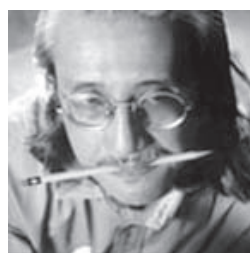
All this merely confirms fairly scientifically what we already know reasonably intuitively. But my alarm does not lie in these findings, it lies in what conclusions we are deriving from them. Chief of them—as gleaned from the remarks of both "analyst" and man-in-the-street interviewed

on TV—are: one, we are no better and no worse than other countries; and, two, pare-pareho lang sila (They're all the same), you change one deceitful politician, you get another. Those are fallacious, indeed deceitful, conclusions, and lead only to more apathy and cynicism.

There is lying and there is lying. Some lies are worse than others. Some lies are more harmful than others. True enough, Filipino politicians will probably beat even con men in untrustworthiness in the public eye; they are the first category of people that Filipinos are least likely to believe. That was so even before martial law. But the lies candidates peddled then, during campaigns in particular, were infinitely more benign than the lies Ferdinand Marcos peddled when he scrapped elections altogether. The lies peddled by the previous presidents after 1986 were infinitely more benign than the lies peddled by the non-President GMA (Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo) after 2004.

Indeed, there is a difference between the lying as a whole then and the lying as a whole now. Not least, people then bothered not to get caught. Even Marcos did, refusing to say categorically he was going to step down after 1973 as he was constitutionally bound to do. That, for the benefit of the martial law babies, was one of the things that sparked the First Quarter Storm, the confrontation between Marcos and a group of students led by Edgar Jopson, the latter demanding he put down in writing he would not seek power after 1973. Marcos got furious that a "grocer's son," as he called Jopson, would make any demands on him. He forgot what kind of a son he was.

Today, that would be no problem. A group of kids asks GMA to swear off ever running again, and she'll do it. She did it before. It's as Mark Twain said about quitting smoking, "It's



There's The Rub
By CONRADO DE QUIROS
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easy, I've done it so many times." That is a monumental difference. People then took care not to be caught lying because it carried with it public scorn. People now do not mind lying brazenly because, at the very least, they can always say it is a "lapse in judgment" and at the very most "I lied-so what?"

The implication of "pare-pareho lang sila," of course, is that it is useless to remove GMA because things are not going to change. That was what Manila Archbishop Gaudencio Rosales said last year—removing GMA won't solve everything—to which I took vigorous exception. I said then, and I say now, removing GMA won't solve everything but it sure as hell will solve a great many things. Not the least of it is that it will remove a squatter in Malacañang, which should restore justice, morality and a sense of right and wrong to this country. It is the worst form of lying to steal the vote, call it a "lapse in judgment," and talk of reforming politics. It is the worst form of deceitfulness to commit a crime, call it a non-crime, and punish oneself with more power. Not all politicians are the same. Not all politicians are Marcos and GMA. At the very least, not all of them are capable of this scale of lying. At the very most, some of them are completely honest and decent persons. Unfortunately they are the ones who are dying early. You may accuse Fernando Poe Jr. of many things, but you may not accuse him of lying. You may accuse Raul Roco of many things, but you may not accuse him of rottenness. Among the living, there is Jovito Salonga, ironically the one person thought to be old and decrepit but who has outlived everyone and remains physically and mentally vibrant. And honest. He is to GMA as the crucifix is to Dracula.

It's true: As a general category, politicians are untrustworthy. But some are more untrustworthy than others. The point is to not let their tribe increase. Saying they're all the same is giving them fertility pills.

Konsulado ng Pilipinas Philippine Consulate General
Saipan, CNMI

MESSAGE

On this auspicious occasion of the launching of the maiden issue of *Saipan Tribune's* Philippine Supplement, I would like to congratulate the *Tribune* for another first in its journalistic tradition.

The supplement which I am informed will feature stories about people, customs and traditions as well as cultural events and places of interest in the Philippines will hopefully provide *Tribune* readers an entertaining read in addition to the daily news that the paper regularly carries.

Hopefully this will also lead to a better understanding about the Philippines and its people who, after all, make up a significant portion of our island community.

The Philippine Consulate salutes the *Saipan Tribune* for its steadfast commitment to giving the public the best there is not only in news reporting but in continuing to give its readers a diverse reading milieu in keeping with the times. All this while maintaining a balanced and unbiased, informative and intelligent, and entertaining outlook in its reporting.

Mabuhay! and here's wishing *Saipan Tribune* more success in future endeavors.

W. D. L. Maximo
WILFREDO DL. MAXIMO
Consul General



Our Constitutions, past and present

Jose V. Abueva in the Philippine Starweek of Oct. 15, 1995, was quoted thus: "If we carefully examine its wide scope, depth and complexity, we would see the Constitution as mandating not only development but also transformation, no less than the building of a free, prosperous egalitarian, just and humane society through a dynamic political, economic, social and cultural democracy." Flowery words for a point of view that lasted barely a decade!

One option for the new government, which was dear to the hearts of many of those who had been active in public life before martial law, was the restoration of the 1935 Constitution. There was much going for the view that held that the 1973 Charter, which had been railroaded through a cowed and bribed convention, was never properly ratified. The implication of this was that the 1935 Constitution never ceased to operate. But practical problems faced the new government. First, according to Nemenzo, "All the institutions it had established had been dissolved." To restore the whole machinery of government in a constitutionally ordained way, Cory Aquino might have to run in another presidential election. This brought up frightening possibilities: at a time when stability was just

beginning to be restored, another massive political exercise would involve the risk of having the yet-undismantled KBL machinery heave into action and make up for the debacle of February. No doubt, Marcos would pull out all stops, and might actually pull off a victory, aided by the forces that had clearly realized they were done for in the new regime. Cory refused to consider holding another presidential election, and the 1935 option was closed forever.

Once the 1935 option was out, two groups of advisers provided and advocated different constitutional plans for President Aquino to choose from. A group, composed of Justice Cecilia Muñoz Palma, Marcelo Fernan and Homobono Adaza advocated the continuation of the 1973 Charter. On the other side were Fr. Joaquin Bernas, the consistently anti-Marcos Neptali Gonzales (then minister of justice) and what Nemenzo calls "the Left-of-corner" advisers.

The views of Justice Palma are quoted by Nemenzo: "The KBL members of parliament should be given the benefit of the doubt. The President should invest a little more faith. . . we are bringing into the reformed society the subversives, the CPP, the radicals. . . so why can't we bring in

the pro-Marcos groups. . . even if they are 'bad'? Nobody is beyond reform." Pointing out that, for all its flaws, the 1973 Constitution at least existed and could be used, the group advocated its adoption—at least on a transitional basis. After all, the snap election had been held under that Constitution, and under it the president of the Philippines could

only be proclaimed by the Batasang Pambansa. Why not correct the injustice that took place when the KBL-dominated assembly proclaimed Marcos? All the Batasan had to do was reconvene, revoke its previous proclamation of Marcos and pass a law granting Cory extraordinary powers to reform the government and (just in case), dissolve the Batasan if it got too obstreperous. After all, after Marcos fled, 46 KBL MPs defected to the Cory camp, "swelling its ranks" from 59 to 105. Then the Constitution could be purged of its totalitarian aspects. No dice, said Cory. The idea of deriving her legitimacy from Marcos' parliament and placing the new government under the

Constitution Marcos had promulgated to legitimize his dictatorship and its abuses was simply too offensive.

Nemenzo also writes that the proposed formula would have made her "a hostage to the cluster of turncoats around Enrile." The argument made by Father Bernas and company was more attractive. Nemenzo summarized this view as the belief that "her power was derived from a popular revolution and not based on the 1973 Constitution. A clean break with the vestiges of the fallen dictatorship and all its laws and institutions required no constitutional justification."

It took her a few weeks to make up her mind. On March 25, 1986, "instead of proclaiming a revolutionary government, she declared the government to be constitutional while promulgating her own 'Freedom Constitution.'" It retained the Bill of Rights and selected portions of the 1973 Charter, vested the President with legislative powers, "until a legislature is elected and convened under

a new Constitution. It authorized the President to appoint a Constitutional Commission (Con-Com)." A marvelous case of a "confluence of events" resulted in the fulfillment of an important aspiration of the opposition.

Soon, after being appointed on June 2, 1986, the Con-Com went to work, under the presidency of Justice Palma, who worked together with commissioners such as Father Bernas. Despite the noise made by indignant people like Juan Ponce Enrile who had pinned their hopes on the old system, and the best efforts of cantankerous Marcos loyalists who occupied the Manila Hotel in July, the Con-Com finished its work. The new Constitution was signed on Oct. 15, and ratified on Feb. 2, 1987.

In David Wurfel's estimation, "The basic law is probably close to what it would have been, had the Constitutional Convention of 1971 been able to complete its work without the imposition of authoritarian rule." In a way, things have come full circle. The idealism of some members of the Con-Com, which had provided some hope to an apparently disintegrating society and its government, found fulfillment, after a long interlude of repression.

Then again, it seems that the Constitution now is the problem.



The Long View
By MANUEL L. QUEZON III
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SAMU'T SARI



Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and First Lady Josie Fitial are all smiles during the Governor's Ball held in the evening of the inauguration ceremony last Jan. 9 at Saipan World Resort.

Sen. Mar Roxas of the Philippines looks surprised even as *Saipan Tribune's* Ferdie dela Torre sneaks in for a keepsake during the inauguration ceremony last Jan. 9 at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.



United Filipino Organization officers share a light moment during the association's Christmas Party at former president Nelida Atalig's residence on Capitol Hill.



UFO members pose at the back of the concretized bleachers at the Susupe Civic Center. The old bleachers were made of wood and were termite-infested before the UFO stepped in and refurbished them last October.



287 Club-McDonald's poses with their 2nd runner-up Best in Uniform trophy with UFO president Roland Pamintuan during the opening of the Budweiser-Coca Cola 6th UFO Inter-Organizational Basketball League at the Oleai Sports Complex track and field in late October last year.



Pamintuan hands the 2nd runner-up Best in Uniform trophy to Cabalen-RP Construction/Transamerica during the opening of the UFO cage league.



Bayani-HBR International and CNMI Power-Saipan Mayor Juan B. Tudela pose with their first place trophies after being declared co-winners in the Best in Uniform competition during the opening of the UFO cage league.